

Below is an article about the green cleaning products pilot including preliminary findings and the action plan.

All three facilities adopted 100% green products in custodial and food service.

SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS STORY

Orting Custodial and Food Service Staff Going Green!

At the Washington Soldiers Home, Donn Lewis, Plant Manager 1, and Marlene Weir, Dietary Manager, worked with Regina Kilby, the Supply Officer at Central Office, to review all their chemical products in an effort to retain only those that were environmentally friendly. Both Custodial and Food Service staff were also recruited to find new, more efficient cleaning products and methods to reduce costs - one of the agency's many sustainability goals. Vendors were contacted and provided demonstrations on new products and practices that would save individual product costs.

In January, custodians conducted a pilot test, of the new products, in one wing of the nursing care facility; and slowly expanded the use of these non-toxic, "environmentally safe", new cleaning products throughout the building.

By July, Orting's nursing facility, its dining room and the main dining hall had entirely switched to the new green floor care products. As the old chemicals are eliminated from Orting's supply inventory, only new "environmentally safe" products will be ordered. Already, use of these new chemicals has proven as environmentally effective against disease and bacteria as the old products with absolutely no increase in virus or infectious diseases. Dorothy Porter, Orting's Quality Assurance Nursing staff Infection Control Nurse, has observed, "The new green cleaning products and custodial practices are working very effectively and caused no infection control problems since the 'green' program began here."

A HIDDEN BENEFIT - DISCOVERED

Jan Nestegard and other Orting custodians found an additional benefit to using environmentally friendly products – mops! While working with vendors, a new micro-mop floor care system was discovered and tested as well. Instead of using a new string mop for each resident's room and obtaining a new bucket of product (to prevent have cross-contamination problems while cleaning from room-to-room), a new wet Velcro flat mop is removed from a single bucket containing numerous rolled up flat ones and then attached to a flat metal mop-head and handle. This reduces the back-breaking task of using and wringing-out heavy wet mops and then having to return to the janitorial closet before and after each individual resident's room is cleaned. This new micro-mop practice **reduces**

time and labor by at least 20% and actual product use has been reduced by about one-third.

The new "green" product's use was expanded by the Dietary Manager to the Main Dining Hall in July. She thinks the new floor care mopping system and new green products will "pay for themselves" in both labor and product usage in just a few months. For seasoned maintenance professionals, like Orting's custodian, Haruki Grubbs, it's hard to imagine one product cleaning everything from windows to kitchen grease, and doing it well. It's also difficult to imagine an environmental cleaner that is also EPA-registered as a sanitizer. But once the new green product, the industry's first hydrogen peroxide-based multipurpose cleaner, was in the hands of the Custodial and Food Service staff at Orting, they quickly became believers.

For more information on the agency's Sustainability efforts please contact April Harris at (360) 725-2167 or april@dva.wa.gov.

PILOT RESULTS AND ACTION PLAN:

Reduction of our "Daily-Use" products (9 to 3). Prices are just a little more in some cases (only a few dollars), but the QUANTITY USED is way down.

Our total amount used is still being determined, because we used a Phased-Approach bringing the products and Micro-fiber Mopping system into the Nursing Care Facility and the rest of the Barrack's areas. Also, as each of our floor care areas (mainly floor tile) is completely stripped, we apply 2 coats of sealer followed by 4 coats of floor coating. Then about every 2-3 weeks an additional coat of floor Maintainer (#213MP) is applied and then buffed. This allows a quick re-wax (reseal) of the floor surface and even repairs scratched or scraped areas, similar to a quick surface car wax, to reserve the floor surface even more. This should allow floors to go much longer intervals between required floor stripping & re-wax. This should provide additional savings in both product costs and labor.

SCHEDULED PHASE-IN:

July 1, 2004 - NCF Wings 1&2; October 1, 2004 - NCF Wings 3&4; November 1, 2004 - Roosevelt Barracks; January 13, 2005 - Chilson Hall; January 18, Betsy Ross Domiciliary; and finally, January 20, 2005 Administration Building.

July 1, 2004 - The Dietary Department brought the Main Dining Hall online with the new Micro-mopping floor-care system and new Green chemicals.

H2 Orange Concentrate	R&D	CS	\$141.57@Case(CS)	**DAILY-USE
Envirostar Floor Coating (Wax)	R&D (Blue)	CS	\$74.68@CS	
Envirostar A/P Cleaner#330MP**	R&D (Yellow)	CS	\$38.47@CS	**DAILY-USE
Envirostar A/P Sealer#413MP	R&D (Orange)	CS	\$75.25@CS	
***Envirostar A/P Maintainer#213MP**	R&D (Green)	CS	\$56.71@CS	**DAILY-USE

QUANTITY USED: As of today, our new NCF "daily-use" products quantity have been reduced by about 36%. The Barracks have been reduced by about 30% and the rest of the buildings have just started.

LABOR SAVINGS: The new micro-fiber mopping system is saving at least 30 minutes per employee and in some cases one hour (depends on how much mopping is performed during each person's workday).